

**P E O P L E   I N   T H E   N E W S****Johnson receives Minority Business Advocate Award**

Photo by Grady Carter

**D**ebra Johnson, NASA JSC's deputy director of procurement, received the Minority Business Advocate Award at the Minority Enterprise Development Week awards ceremony and 8th annual Greater Houston Business Procurement Forum Awards Breakfast held October 19. Johnson serves as JSC's senior advisor on small business.

The Small Business Administration's Houston District Director Milton Wilson presented Johnson a bronze statue of an American eagle honoring her for support to the SBA and outstanding contributions to many small and minority-owned businesses and organizations that advocate for small business. The JSC Small Business Program, steered by Johnson, has frequently received recognition from area and national organizations.

MED Week was designated by Presidential Proclamation in 1983. This year's event provided minority business owners, corporate and government executives, purchasing representatives and other minority business advocates a forum to network, develop strong business links and address issues. MED Week activities were scheduled the entire week and included public and private sector companies and the greater Houston small business community.

The U.S. SBA-Houston District, the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency Office, and the Houston Minority Business Development Center hosted the event. ■

Cleveland Baker, assistant district director for minority enterprise development for the Small Business Administration's Houston District Office, presents the Minority Business Advocate Award to Debra Johnson, JSC's deputy director of procurement.

**Hall earns honor for excellence in labor relations**

**B**ob Hall, JSC's labor/employee relations officer, has been named this year's recipient of the National Labor and Employee Relations Excellence Award.

Hall, who has led the center's civil service labor relations activities since 1979, was cited for turning around the labor relations program at JSC. Before his appointment, the labor relations staff and the local union leadership spent most of their time working grievances and complaints. "It wasn't much fun and it certainly wasn't very productive," remembers Hall. The filings stopped shortly after Hall's appointment thanks to his efforts to change the fundamental relationship between management and the union, and by involving the union as partners early in important decisions. "We haven't had an arbitration case or an unfair labor practice complaint in more than twenty years, and that's pretty remarkable."

Hall gives credit to the JSC team. "Our success has really been a team effort. I'm very fortunate to be working in an environment where our Human Resources staff, the center's management team, and the union leadership all appreciate that more gets accomplished when you work together."

In addition to serving as the center's focal point for labor and employee



NASA JSC Photo S99-14702 by Robert Markowitz

**Bob Hall**

relations activities, Hall is responsible for personnel policy development and personnel program evaluation.

JSC, its employees, and its customers have benefited from many of the programs that Hall has partnered with the union such as the development of a fully

accredited parent-operated on-site child care facility that has operated successfully for nine years; development and implementation of an array of family-friendly programs including a leave donor program, flexible work schedules, flexiplace, and part-time employment programs; implementation of a diversity council, a diversity management program, and an important and useful system of Equal Employment Opportunity metrics; improvement of JSC's occupational health and safety program which has led to certification of JSC as a VPP Star site; development of an AIDS policy that became the model for the federal government; and development and implementation of new performance management and recognition systems.

Hall has received numerous performance and special achievement awards including certificates of commendation, a NASA Exceptional Service Medal, and NASA's Equal Employment Opportunity Medal.

Hall received the National Labor and Employee Relations Excellence Award at the 10th annual Labor and Employee Relations Conference, presented by FPMI Communications, Inc., the Merit Systems Protection Board, and IHS Human Resource Products, in Orlando, Fla. ■

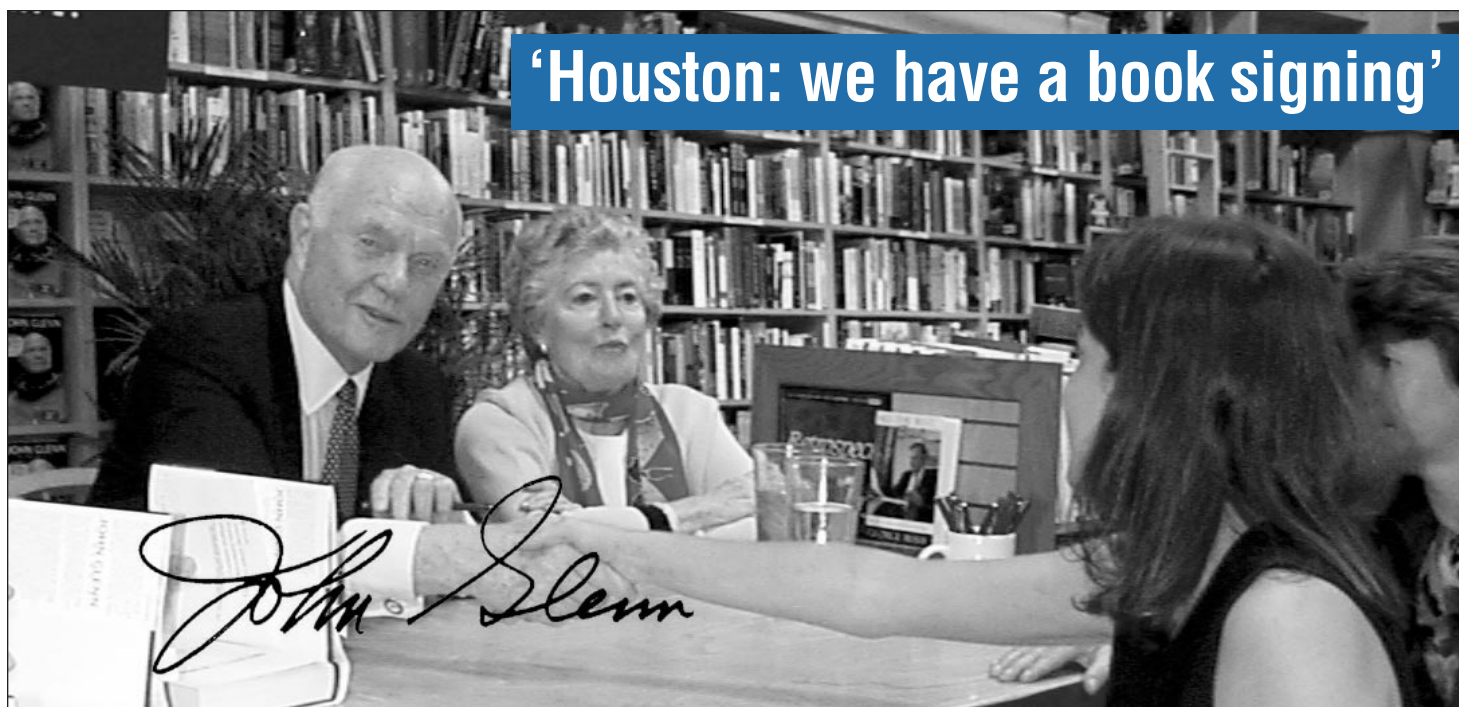
**JSC retiree to receive Losey Atmospheric Sciences Award**

**T**he American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics recently announced that Donald J. Kessler is the 2000 recipient of the AIAA Losey Atmospheric Sciences Award. The award will be presented on January 11, 2000, during the 38th Aerospace Sciences Meeting and Exhibit at Reno, NV.

The award is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions to the atmospheric sciences as applied to the advancement of aeronautics and astronautics. Kessler will be honored "in recognition for pioneering work in the discovery and definition of the orbital debris component of the atmospheric environment."

Kessler is a retired NASA JSC senior scientist for orbital debris, and currently resides in Friendswood.

AIAA is the world's leading professional society in the broad areas of aeronautics and astronautics, and the preeminent worldwide aerospace information resource. ■

**'Houston: we have a book signing'****Former Senator and Astronaut John Glenn**

recently resurfaced in Houston.

Glenn was in town for a book signing engagement at Border's Bookstore. More than 700 people lined up outside the Westheimer store for a chance to meet the man behind the legend. His book, *John Glenn: A Memoir*, was released November 2 and narrates his idyllic childhood in Ohio through his political endeavors and remarkable career in aviation and space exploration.